

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

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HINCHEY SECURES \$100,000 FOR ENDICOTT PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) today announced that, at his request, the fiscal year 2002 spending plan for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will include \$100,000 for the Endicott Performing Arts Center. The funds will be used to restore the Lyric Theater to a fully functional performing arts theater.

"EPAC has been working hard to raise money for this restoration and I'm happy to be able to help," said Hinchey. "This funding will not only help to restore a historic building, it will also provide a great venue for entertainment and educational purposes. It will provide a great boost for the Endicott community."

The Endicott Performing Arts Center, a non-profit organization, has been raising funds to restore the Lyric Theater since 1998. The theater, which was built in 1917, has been unoccupied for several years and has fallen into serious disrepair. The federal funds announced today will go toward replacing the original pressed tin ceiling, installing a new theater rigging system, replacing wall coverings and carpeting, and completely renovating the building.

"The Endicott Performing Arts Center is deeply grateful for the funds announced by Congressman Hinchey," said Louis Ligouri, Co-Manager and Marketing Director for EPAC. "This will help us continue our mission of providing a high quality performing arts center and venue to our community. Our volunteers have worked tirelessly and unselfishly to help us achieve that goal and we have come a long since our inception in 1998."

Hinchey, who is a member of the House Appropriations Committee, requested that the funding be included in the bill that includes appropriations for HUD. A joint House-Senate conference committee is expected to complete work on the bill this week. The conference report must then be passed by both chambers before being sent to the president for his signature. It is not expected to encounter any significant obstacles.